



Solicitation for Proposals - USAID/Timor-Leste Small Grants Program

The USAID Small Grants Program (SGP) was established in October 2004 and is scheduled to conclude in September 2008. In its final year, SGP is seeking grant proposals from qualified organizations and institutions to implement programs that **Build Foundations for Entrepreneurship & Business Success in Timor-Leste** and **Disseminate Messages for a More Informed and Civically Active Public**.

Proposals must be less than 5 pages, include a detailed budget, and submitted to Proposals_Timor-Leste@dai.com. Proposals must be submitted for activities that end before June 2008 (or submitted with co-funding for the period after June 2008). For more information and proposal guidelines contact Beba_Amaral@dai.com or 3324-108.

SGP seeks proposals in one of five focus areas:

Literacy & Numeracy

Community Based Literacy & Numeracy Training for Business People: SGP works closely with local NGOs and the Ministry of Education's Non-Formal Education (NFE) Directorate to deliver practical literacy and numeracy training programs to small business owners. SGP is looking for proposals to further expand the delivery of literacy and numeracy training curriculum to small business owners in rural communities.

General Literacy & Numeracy Promotion: To further promote the practical benefits of literacy and engage a wider population in the many successful literacy programs available in Timor-Leste, SGP seeks proposals to develop literacy promotion campaigns to be widely disseminated via television, radio, and print media outlets.

Entrepreneurship Development

Practical Exercises in Entrepreneurship: SGP promotes entrepreneurship among primary and secondary school students, unemployed youth, and educated professionals by supporting activities that teach basic business concepts through participation in income generating activities. SGP seeks proposals that allow individuals to experiment in an entrepreneurial activity, develop practical skills, and learn basic business principles by being a part of each step of a complete business cycle; including production, marketing, and sales.

Business Education: SGP supports local organizations delivering short courses on basic business concepts such as money management, basic bookkeeping, and marketing. SGP also supports institutions that teach basic job skills and provide job placement services to individuals seeking employment. All business education proposals should demonstrate how training activities link to jobs or other income generating activities.

Enterprise Development

Direct Support to Micro, Small, & Medium Size Enterprises with Potential: SGP provides technical assistance, operational funding, and capital inputs in support of micro, small, and medium size businesses that demonstrate significant investment by the local partner(s) in addition to co-funding and input from other donors and commercial banks whenever possible. SGP is seeking proposals from businesses that have realistic goals, a clearly articulated business and financial plan, financial management capacity, and a positive impact on local communities.

Civic Education

Public Self-Advocacy: SGP seeks to support organizations promoting self-advocacy at the local level through initiatives that encourage communities to capitalize on the presence of local leaders and existing government structures in order to address community issues and increase dialogue with their leaders.

Public Understanding of the Government: SGP seeks proposals from organizations that help the Timorese public better understand the roles and responsibilities of their elected representatives. SGP is particularly interested in activities that bring citizens closer to their government representatives and give citizens a voice in local and national level policy dialogue.

Public Information

Dissemination of Messages through Multiple Media Sources: SGP seeks to support organizations capable of developing and disseminating programs and messages for public information campaigns that address issues surrounding the recent changes in government, other current affairs, and promote SGP's Civic Education strategy. Public Information Campaigns should reach a wide audience and be delivered through different media including short feature films, street dramas, radio dramas, and mobile broadcasts.